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8-23-05

IFW 1763

In re application of:  
Ellis et al.

§ 87(2)(b)

Confirmation No.:3766

Examiner: Olsen, Allan W.

**For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
POST-FABRICATION REDUCTION  
OF MINIMUM FEATURE SIZE  
SPACING OF MICROCOMPONENTS**

Commissioner for Patents  
MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The present paper is being submitted in response to the Species Election Requirement Office Action dated July 22, 2005, in the above-identified application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

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**I. Election**

In the Office Action mailed July 22, 2005, the Examiner alleges that the application contains claims directed towards patentably distinct species with respect to:

- The claimed assembly being insensitive to etching inaccuracy including inaccuracy selected from over-etching and under-etching;
- The claimed assembly comprising an assembly selected from a linear stepper, a rotational stepper, and a planetary bearing; and
- The claimed first portion of the second microcomponent being configured to interface with a gripper interface, a tweezer interface, and a probe interface.

In response to the species election requirement regarding the claimed assembly being insensitive to etching inaccuracy including inaccuracy selected from over-etching and under-etching, Applicants elect the species directed towards etching inaccuracy including over-etching. Claims 23-59 are readable on the elected species, and claims 23-59 are considered generic, at least with regard to the claimed assembly being insensitive to etching inaccuracy including inaccuracy selected from over-etching and under-etching.

In response to the species election requirement regarding the claimed assembly comprising an assembly selected from a linear stepper, a rotational stepper, and a planetary bearing, Applicants elect the species directed towards the claimed assembly comprising a linear stepper. Claims 23-59 are readable on the elected species, and claims 23-59 are considered generic, at least with regard to the claimed assembly comprising an assembly selected from a linear stepper, a rotational stepper, and a planetary bearing.

In response to the species election requirement regarding the claimed first portion of the second microcomponent being configured to interface with a gripper interface, a tweezer interface, and a probe interface, Applicants elect the species directed towards the first portion of the second microcomponent being configured to interface with a probe interface. Claims 23-48 and 51-59 are readable on the elected species, and claims 23-48 and 52-59 are considered generic, at least with regard to the first portion of the second microcomponent being configured to interface with a gripper interface, a tweezer interface, and a probe interface.

Consequently, with regard to all of Applicants' elections above, including species directed towards etching inaccuracy including over-etching, species directed towards the claimed assembly comprising a linear stepper, and species directed towards the first portion of the second microcomponent being configured to interface with a probe interface, claims 23-48 and 51-59 are readable on all of the elected species, and claims 23-48 and 52-59 are considered generic.